

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-31 were pending. By this Reply, claims 32-41 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 18, 19, 24, and 40 are independent.

INTERVIEW REQUESTED

Applicants respectfully request that an interview be granted with Applicants' representative prior to any examination being performed. It is also respectfully requested that the Examiner's Supervisor also be present.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 26-28 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

§ 103 REJECTION – TAKAYAMA, YAMAGAMI

Claims 1, 12-14, 18-20, 22-23, 24-25, and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takayama (USPN 6,512,791) in view of Yamagami (USPN 5,384,644). Applicants maintain all traversal arguments made in the prior Replies filed on December 23, 2003 and July 24, 2003.

In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the feature of "the length of data is fixed on a block-by-block basis" is not recited in the claims. For example, Applicants refer the Examiner to claim 19 as presented in the Reply filed on July 24, 2003. The claim clearly recites "wherein ... a length of the cde output **for each block** is fixed." *Emphasis added.* ✓

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references may be relied upon to teach or suggest at least this feature.

§ 103 REJECTION – TAKAYAMA, YAMAGAMI, IWASAKI

Claims 5-7, 15-17, 21, 25, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takayama in view of Yamagami and in further view of Iwasaki et al (USPN 5,414,487, hereinafter "Iwasaki"). Applicants maintain all traversal arguments made in the prior Replies filed on December 23, 2003 and July 24, 2003.

§ 103 REJECTION – TAKAYAMA, YAMAGAMI, WATANABE, IWASAKI

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takayama in view of Yamagami, Iwasaki, and Watanabe et al. (USPN 5,032,927, hereinafter "Watanabe"). Applicants maintain all traversal arguments made in the prior Replies filed on December 23, 2003 and July 24, 2003.

NEW CLAIMS

By this reply, claims 32-41 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are distinguishable over all relied upon references of record. Applicants respectfully request that the new claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

All rejections raised having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited. However, should there be any outstanding matters that may be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346) at 703-205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments
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